

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4387
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4784

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, TU, IR, SA

SUBJECT: ROK PRIMIN GOODWILL TOUR

REF: (A) SEOUL 3574 (DTG 020702Z MAY 77), (B) ANKARA 3627
(DTG 111025Z MAY 77 NOTAL), (C) TEHRAN 4401
(DTG 180731Z MAY 77 NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRAN, TURKEY AND SAUDI
ARABIA APPARENTLY LARGELY CEREMONIAL, BUT SIGNALS GROWING
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP, AND POSSIBLE FAVORABLE
FOREIGN EXCHANGE BALANCE WITH MID EAST THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK PRIMIN CH'OE KYU-HA'S CORDIAL MAY 4 - 15 TRIP TO
THREE MIDDLE EASTERN NATIONS SUCCEEDED IN INCREASING
COOPERATION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT WITH HOST NATIONS.
EMBOFFS' CONVERSATIONS WITH ROKG OFFICIALS INDICATE JOINT
COMMUNIQUE AND EXTENSIVE ROK PRESS REPORTS COVERED
VISITS THOROUGHLY, DESCRIBING PRIMIN'S LENDING OF HIS
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PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY TO AGREEMENTS AND STATEMENTS MADE
IN COURSE OF ON-GOING ROK EFFORTS TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT
OF RELATIONS IN IMPORTANT MIDDLE EASTERN AREA.

2. PRIMIN CH'OE SIGNED TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AGREEMENT IN TURKEY MAY 4 - 7, CONCLUDED LARGE NUMBER OF
AGREEMENTS IN IRAN MAY 7 - 11, AND AGREED WITH SAUDIS TO

IMPLEMENT EXISTING AGREEMENTS DURING JIDDA STAY MAY 11-15. SHAHANSHAH ARYAMEHR AND KING KHALID ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO KOREA, AS DID PRIMINS OF TURKEY AND IRAN. IRAN VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE PRODUCED LARGEST NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, INCLUDING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT VIRTUAL EXEMPTION OF KOREAN WORKERS IN IRAN FROM SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES.

3. IN MAY 31 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, MOFA MIDDLE EAST DIVISION CHIEF PAK TONG-SUN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PRIMIN'S TRIP, ESPECIALLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN IRAN. SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT EXEMPTING ROK CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES FROM PAYMENT OF IRANIAN SOCIAL SECURITY TAX WILL, ACCORDING TO PAK, RELIEVE ROK COMPANIES OF SIGNIFICANT BURDEN AND MIGHT SET THE STAGE FOR SIMILAR AGREEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE MID-EAST. PAK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT JOINT STATEMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA WENT FURTHER THAN THOSE IN TURKEY AND IRAN IN CALLING FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FORCES FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY, BUT SAID IT WAS NOT DIFFERENT IN ANY IMPORTANT RESPECT FROM THE LAST SUCH JOINT ROK/SAUDI FORMULATION, ADOPTED IN 1973.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 1, PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT KIM KYONG-WON SAID PRESIDENT PARK EXPRESSED PLEASURE TO HIM THAT KOREAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE BALANCE WITH MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN NATIONS WILL BE IN THE BLACK THIS YEAR FOR FIRST TIME SINCE OIL CRISIS. PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WAS, ACCORDING TO KIM, IN PART A SIGNAL OF RECOGNITION OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH
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HAS EVOLVED BETWEEN ROK AND MIDDLE EASTERN NATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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